

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

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Massachusetts Seventh District

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TENET'S CREDIBILITY EVAPORATES – HE MUST RESIGN

CIA Director defends intelligence distortions, ignores results of inspections

WASHINGTON, DC - Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), a Senior Member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security and Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Taskforce on Nonproliferation today released the following statement on CIA Director George Tenet's Georgetown University speech on U.S. intelligence:

"Mr. Tenet now says that the CIA never claimed Iraq was an imminent threat," Rep. Markey said. "He had plenty of chances to make that clear to Congress and the American people. In January 2003, he allowed President Bush to include the fraudulent claim about yellowcake uranium from Niger in the State of the Union address. In February 2003 he sat behind Colin Powell as he systematically presented intelligence on Iraqi WMD that was alarmist and untrue. Later in February 2003, he did not clarify the CIA's intelligence position when the on-the-ground U.N. weapons inspectors reported their negative findings. But he ignored all of these opportunities and others to tell Congress and the American people that Saddam was not an imminent threat to the U.S."

Rep. Markey continued, "Mr. Tenet also seems to be ignoring the results of David Kay's exhaustive and meticulous weapons inspection that concluded there are no WMD in Iraq. Desperately looking for a way out, he is now suggesting the incredible idea that the looting in Baghdad and elsewhere was an organized, deliberate effort to hide WMD work, and that we will never be able to know whether Saddam was building nuclear, chemical or biological weapons."

Rep. Markey continued, "In June 2003 I called for George Tenet's resignation after he claimed responsibility for the fraudulent yellowcake uranium claim in the State of the Union address. After what he said today, I am repeating the call that Tenet step down. The Bush Administration systematically overstated and distorted the case for war in Iraq, and Mr. Tenet, as the chief information source for the Administration's faulty war hype, bears the responsibility. He had chance after chance to correct the misuse of Intelligence on Iraq, and he missed every one. To restore the integrity of the CIA as a source of un-politicized information, George Tenet must resign."

Additional information is available at Rep. Markey's website, <http://www.house.gov/markey>.

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